

64-2177/1

23 NOV 1964

The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of 24 October concerning IAP-64: Intelligence Assumptions for Planning - Soviet Military Forces Through Mid-1970. I am glad to know that you found this document useful, and will with pleasure pass on your remarks to the members of the United States Intelligence Board.

We too have been thinking about ways in which this document might be improved in the future. With respect to the particular suggestions contained in your letter, we have already devised a procedure for updating the IAP. We plan to revise the first three sections immediately after the appearance of the pertinent NIE's; Section I, on Strategic Attack Forces, is currently being done. The remainder of the paper will be updated immediately after the publication of the NIE's on Soviet Military Policy and Soviet Foreign Policy, or for the present cycle, in the spring of 1965. We are also mindful of the need to correlate economic and order of battle information, and we plan to take advantage of your offer to make available data on the costs of US weapons systems to assist us. Finally, it is our objective over the longer term to make the document as comprehensive as possible.

I will look forward to receiving your more detailed comments and suggestions on the IAP.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN A. MCCONE

John A. McCone
Director

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10 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: Attached Letter from Secretary of Defense,
Dated 24 October 1964, and Proposed Reply**

1. It is recommended that you sign the attached proposed reply to Mr. McNamara's letter concerning the IAP.

2. It is further recommended that you authorize the Executive Secretary of USIB to send copies of Mr. McNamara's letter and of your reply to the USIB principals.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

**ABBOT SMITH
Acting Chairman**

ATTACHMENT

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2. We need to continue our efforts to strengthen the analytical basis of long-range intelligence projections, especially the correlation of economic (cost, production capacity, etc.) information and order of battle information. In particular, estimates of the U.S. costs of Soviet weapon systems are proving to be especially useful in many of our strategic studies, and we would appreciate more and better information of this kind. In order to get this, I know that you need accurate historical data on costs of U.S. weapon systems, and I believe that all elements of the Department of Defense should cooperate with you in providing such information.

3. The document, or companion documents, should include other Communist Bloc forces.

Please express to the members of the United States Intelligence Board my appreciation for this very useful document.

Later this autumn I hope to forward more detailed comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,



24 October 1964

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